

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 MC-02 FEA-01 ACDA-07

CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05

DODE-00 ERDA-05 USIA-06 TRSE-00 COME-00 PM-04

SP-02 SS-15 /102 R

DRAFTED BY OES/NET/IM: W A MOFFITT:BJB

APPROVED BY OES/NET: L V NOSENZO

L/OES: C SIEGAL (DRAFT)

ACDA: R WILLIAMSON (DRAFT)

ERDA: R SLAWSON (DRAFT)

EUR/SE: R DELABARRE (DRAFT)

PM/NPO: J MCGUINNESS (DRAFT)

OES/NET/IM: D B HOYLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA ROUTINE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 088171

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, PARM, ENRG, TU

SUBJECT: EXPORT OF RESEARCH REACTOR FUEL TO TURKEY

REFERENCE: A) 76 STATE 225930 (NOTAL); B) 76 STATE

080067 (NOTAL)

1. ERDA HAS THOROUGHLY RE-EXAMINED ALL RECORDS OF SHIPMENTS TO DATE OF ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL TO TURKEY WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO 15 KILOGRAM NET U-235 CEILING ESTABLISHED IN US-TURKISH AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION. IN COURSE OF THIS
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RE-EXAMINATION, ERDA HAS DETERMINED THAT APPROXIMATELY 1.2 KILOGRAMS OF U-235 IN FUEL SHIPPED SOME TIME AGO UNDER THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION, AND SUBSEQUENTLY RE-TRANSFERRED TO TURKEY UNDER THE US-IAEA AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION, REMAINED CHARGED TO CEILING OF US-TURKISH AGREEMENT INSTEAD OF BEING TRANSFERRED AND CHARGED TO CEILING OF US-IAEA AGREEMENT. THE TRANSFER TO THE US-IAEA

AGREEMENT WAS PART OF THE ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH WHICH MATERIAL WAS PROVIDED AS A GIFT TO TURKEY IN 1974 UNDER THE IAEA AGREEMENT, AND WAS ACCOMPLISHED VIA A TRANSFER OF TITLE AGREEMENT (IAEA INFCIRC/212, DATED NOVEMBER 8, 1974).

2. ERDA HAS CORRECTED ITS RECORDS AND WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE HAS DETERMINED THAT THE CEILING OF THE US-TURKISH AGREEMENT CAN ACCOMMODATE THE TRANSFER OF THE FUEL NEEDED FOR INITIAL LOADING OF TRIGA MARK II REACTOR (2.652 KGS. OF CONTAINED U-235) WHICH WAS RECENTLY SHIPPED TO NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ISTANBUL. BOTH GENERAL ATOMIC AND THE TURKISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO THIS EFFECT. FYI SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, ACDA OBJECTED TO THIS INTERPRETATION OF THE FUEL CEILING PROVISIONS OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT AND THE ISSUE HAS NOT BEEN RESOLVED. FURTHERMORE, WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT AN ADDITIONAL QUANTITY OF HEU PROBABLY WILL BE NEEDED IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR THE TR-1 REACTOR AT CEKMECE. END FYI.

3. AS A PART OF THE RECENT REVIEW OF US NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY MANDATED BY PRESIDENT CARTER, CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO STEPS WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN BY THE US TO MINIMIZE INVENTORIES ABROAD OF US-SUPPLIED HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM (HEU), SINCE IT IS CAPABLE OF BEING USED WITH MINIMAL ADDITIONAL PROCESSING IN A NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE. ONE OF THE DECISIONS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE IS THAT COUNTRIES POSSESSING SUCH MATERIAL IN IRRADIATED FORM WILL

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BE URGED TO RETURN IT TO THE UNITED STATES, FOLLOWING AN APPROPRIATE PERIOD OF RADIOACTIVE COOLING, FOR RE-PROCESSING BY ERDA.

4. GIVEN THE INVENTORY OF SUCH IRRADIATED FUEL FROM THE TR-1 REACTOR IN TURKEY, WE WOULD PREFER TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO EXPLORE WITH APPROPRIATE TURKISH OFFICIALS ON AN EXPEDITED BASIS THE FEASIBILITY OF ITS RETURN PRIOR TO TAKING FINAL EXECUTIVE BRANCH ACTION ON THE PENDING FUEL EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION FOR THE TRIGA MARK II REACTOR.

5. THIS US INTEREST IN RETURN OF IRRADIATED HEU FUEL IS NOT DIRECTED TOWARD GOT BECAUSE OF ANY UNIQUE CONCERNS ABOUT TURKISH NON-PROLIFERATION INTENTIONS OR LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN OUR ALLY. MANY COUNTRIES FIND IT USEFUL TO RETURN SPENT FUEL FOR REPROCESSING FOR THE RESIDUAL VALUE IT CONTAINS AS WELL AS BEING A MEANS OF SOLVING STORAGE PROBLEMS. WE EXPECT TO APPROACH OTHER NATIONS HOLDING HEU AT OR BEFORE SUCH TIME AS THEY MAKE REQUESTS FOR THE

EXPORT OF ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES OF HEU, SUCH AS IS ANTICIPATED FOR THE CEKMECE REACTOR.

6. WE ARE AWARE THAT SPENT FUEL RETURN MAY PRESENT BOTH FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL PROBLEMS FOR GOT, BUT WOULD HOPE THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE INSUPERABLE. WE ALSO KNOW THAT IN THE PAST GOT HAS EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR AMENDING BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION, TO INCREASE 15 KILOGRAM CEILING, RATHER THAN TO RETURN SPENT FUEL. HOWEVER, GIVEN CURRENT US EFFORTS TO REDUCE HEU INVENTORIES ABROAD AND SIGNIFICANT CHANGES ANTICIPATED IN PROVISIONS FOR NEW OR AMENDED BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WHICH WILL NOT BE TOTALLY DEVELOPED FOR SOME TIME, WE DO NOT CONSIDER AMENDMENT OF THE AGREEMENT A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE AT THE PRESENT TIME.

7. DRAWING ON GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPHS 3-6, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH APPROPRIATE GOT OFFICIALS
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AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN PRELIMINARY REACTION TO US PROPOSAL.
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Message Attributes

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